

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2016

4:30 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second Floor, City Council
chambers

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Brines called the Greenbelt Advisory Commission to order at 4:31 p.m. in the Guy Larcum Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

ROLL CALL

Present 8 - Shannon Brines, Stephanie Buttrey, Jennifer Fike, John Ramsburgh, Jean Cares, Siri Ibarguen, Douglas Allen, and Robert Gordon
Absent 1 - Julie Grand

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

(4 SPEAKERS MAXIMUM - 5 MINUTE SPEAKING TIME - SIGN UP MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR OR CITY STAFF. THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY IS LIMITED TO ITEMS RELATED TO THE AGENDA.)

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Buttrey entered a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion regarding an alternate meeting space for future Greenbelt Advisory Commission meetings. Commissioner Cares also entered a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion regarding Washtenaw County public access as per their easement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Buttrey, seconded by Commissioner Cares, that the Agenda be Approved with changes. On a voice vote, Chairperson Brines declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Buttrey asked that the agenda be amended to include discussion regarding an alternate meeting venue for future Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meetings.

Commissioner Cares asked to also add a discussion regarding the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program and its policy toward public access on its easements.

Chairperson Brines asked that both items be added to the Agenda under "New Business"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16-0757 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2016

Approved by the Board and forwarded to the City Council

Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Ramsburgh, that the minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, Chairperson Brines declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Alternate Meeting Space for future Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meetings

Commissioner Buttrey asked that an alternate meeting space is considered for future Greenbelt Advisory Commission meetings. She suggested a meeting space t

Commissioner Buttery stated given the size of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission that a smaller conference room for meeting should be considered. Chairperson Brines asked that Ruth Thornton work at exploring an alternate venue for future meetings.

B. Washtenaw County public access per their easment

There was discussion regarding the Washtenaw County public access per their easement.

Commissioner Cares stated the topic warrants more attention and she hopes the matter can be addressed.

Chairperson Brines suggested the Commission draft a resolution or a statement with regards to the Commissions position on the matter. Commissioner Cares offered to draft such a statement and distribute it for consideration.

Staff Update

A. Ruth Thornton Introduction

Ruth Thornton, Midwest Program Associate The Conservation Fund, was recently hired to replace Ginny Trocchio. Ms. Thornton has worked for the Nature Conservancy in West Virginia and Minnesota. She also held a position with the Department of Natural Resources. Her background is in Fishery, Wildlife and Science.

B. Greenbelt Tour - May 14, 2016

Peg Kohring was pleased to report that the Greenbelt Bus Tour is scheuled and she is predicting a good turnout. She asked if any Commissioners were interested in attending to let her know as soon as possible.

C. Bloomer Proclamation

Peg Kohring reported that there was a 10 year anniversary with a proclamation for the Bloomers presented at the last council meeting by the Mayor. The Bloomer family was acknowledged for their easement and leadership.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Brines stated the new business items will be revisited during the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Buttrey, seconded by Commissioner Fike, that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission enter into Closed session. On a voice vote, Chairperson Brines declared the motion carried.

MEETING RECONVENED

5:18 p.m.

MOTION 1 2016-02

A motion to recommend to City Council to purchase the development rights identified in application #2016-02 and contribute funds not to exceed \$886,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORT FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

A. Public Relations Committee Report

Commissioner Buttrey discussed a recent communication that was sent to the land owners regarding potential pipeline installations. Peg Kohring stated that the letter was well received by the land owners. The land owners were very appreciative of the communication.

B. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner Ramsburgh updated the Commission regarding the open intern position. He stated that there was a potential candidate however, they didn't have the experience and qualifications. The position is still active and posted.

C. Term Limits Discussion

Chairperson Brines reminded the Commissioners that some their terms may be expiring soon. He stated that Ruth Thornton would be in contact with those affected to assist in the renewal process if interested.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Buttrey, that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting be Adjourn. On a voice vote, Chairperson Brines declared the motion carried.